

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A support structure for a C-ring includes a pair of circumferentially spaced holding members on catch plates. The holding members may be moved individually into the C-ring after the C-ring is mounted within an outer housing. The two holding members thus provide support to an inner periphery of the C-ring. A locking plate has support structure moved between circumferential ends of the housing members, thus providing effective support for the C-ring around its entire inner periphery. In this way, the two parts secured by the C-ring need not be moved relative to each other to insert the C-ring. The clearance or ability to move one of the two parts relative to the other which has been required in the past to mount a C-ring, is not necessary. This makes the inventive C-ring particularly useful for new applications, such as holding a porting sleeve within a valve housing.

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